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Wednesday, March 25, 2009

7 - 8 pm

WASHINGTON, D.C. - If your phone rings this Wednesday night, it just might be Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) asking for your healthcare stories and your opinions about healthcare reform. Wilson will be hosting a telephone town hall meeting on healthcare for the residents of Ohio's Sixth District.

"I've hosted a few telephone town hall meetings and they were very successful. Many people have called, written and emailed asking when I would hold another one," Wilson said. "Since healthcare reform will be one of the most complex issues we'll deal with this year, I wanted to reach out to the residents of southern and eastern Ohio early on in the process and get their thoughts."

Shortly before 7 pm on Wednesday the phones in thousands of homes will ring and everyone who answers will be given the option of participating in the forum. If they want to take part all they have to do is stay on the line. It's that easy. If residents want to make sure they're a part of the telephone town hall but don't want to wait for Congressman Wilson to call them, they should feel free to dial in. **The toll-free number is 1-877-229-8493. The PIN Number for the call is 13016.**

During the live meeting callers will have the chance to tell Congressman Wilson their personal stories about how the healthcare system has affected their lives.

"Healthcare costs have increased four times faster than inflation and that's hit working families extremely hard. As families fight to pay for, or even find healthcare, we need to engage in positive discussion and debate to solve our healthcare problems. Every American citizen should be getting the best possible coverage at the best possible price," Wilson said. "I'm looking forward to talking with residents of the Sixth District about this extremely important issue."

Wilson represents the residents in much of Mahoning, Belmont, Athens and Scioto counties and all of Columbiana, Jefferson, Monroe, Noble, Washington, Meigs, Gallia and Lawrence counties.

"I'm eager to hear from all the residents I represent. Last time we had more than 4,400 people on the call. The technology that allows me to hear from so many people at once and to speak directly with them is exciting," Wilson said.

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**MEDIA NOTE:** Reporters are welcome to call in, listen to and report on the call. Constituent questions are first priority but, if there's time, Congressman Wilson will also try to take a few reporter questions about healthcare.

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